

Minutes
Public Transportation Committee
8/12/09

Present: John Norton, Jim Nash, Elysse Link, Alex Ghiselin, Jake Toomey(FRTA), David Elvin (PVPC), Jamin Carroll (VATCO). Also attending Tom O'Brien and Ruth McGrath.

Minutes of 7/8/09 were approved as presented.

Jake Toomey reported schedule changes to the Valley Route (Greenfield/Northampton) that will take effect September first. The R-31 will add a midday trip (leave the Court Square at 12PM) and drop the 2PM trip that now arrives at the Academy Of Music at 2:55. Two little used stops in Sunderland will also be eliminated to streamline the route. The new schedule will be posted on line and at the Academy bus shelter as well as in new FRTA publications. Jake said that linking the route with existing VATCO and UMASS service was his central concern.

David Elvin said the PVRTA will be holding a regional meeting in Northampton in mid October. Committee members suggested the meeting be held at the Senior Center on Conz St. from 4 to 6 PM. David will post the meeting as soon as the time and place are confirmed. He also said that rail service through Northampton was almost certain and the PVPC was interested in working with the city to identify an appropriate rail stop that could be linked to existing bus service. Committee members expressed a strong interest in working on the issue and suggested the Chair bring that idea to the Transportation and Parking Commission and the Mayor.

Jamin Carroll reported that service would be modified on both the R42 and the R44 effective September 6 to "improve reliability in response to passenger feedback". Morning runs on the R42 will start 5 to 15 minutes earlier and will deliver students to Haydenville in time for the start of classes at the Hilltown Charter School. The R44 will continue hourly service to Route 66, the Hampshire House of Corrections and Village Hill but will discontinue service to Ryan Rd. after September 4th. **Ruth McGrath** said ridership failed to develop for the Ryan Rd run because it was perceived to be unreliable and not effectively publicized. **David Elvin** said the route had been funded by a grant and it was possible that other help might be found. Run times on the R44 have also been modified to reduce passenger waiting time and improve convenience. Salvo House will be served before the run to Village Hill and on the way back and the bus stop at Hampshire Plaza will be moved from Big Lots to Big Y in response to passenger requests.

Bus Stop signs/ Florence Shelter Jamin said he expected approval from Mass Highway in the next two weeks. **Jim Nash** pointed out that existing parking markings need to be painted over on both sides of Main St. in Florence to accommodate the new stop and that the new crosswalk markings also needed to be painted. This should be an agenda item at the Transportation/Parking Committee meeting.

